

February 10, 2003

To Whom It May Concern:

The Wrangell School Board and the City of Wrangell lobbied on behalf of the following statements to the Alaska Legislature in February 2003:

Voluntary incorporation of a unified municipality is preferable to the potential alternative of having a different borough government imposed upon residents by the state or leaving regions in the unorganized borough.

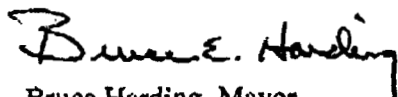
The framers of the Alaska constitutional provisions for boroughs clearly envisioned that single community boroughs might be formed; the legislature, in enacting standards for boroughs, did not require two communities; and several single-community boroughs are now in existence and are effectively delivering services. Whatever sense might be made for imposing such a multiple community presumption upon a broader, regional-type borough, the Local Boundary Commission should examine the merits of relaxing the presumption when reviewing a proposal to form a unified municipality – a sub-species of borough traditionally associated with a dominant urban center. A unified municipality would run at cross-purpose with the constitutional goal of encouraging creation of boroughs. Additionally, the Alaska constitution clearly provides for a minimum of local government units and prevention of multiple tax levying jurisdictions.

Requested Action:

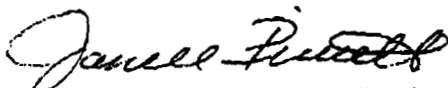
Amend AS 29.05.060 to permit home rule and first class cities to initiate borough or unified municipalities without requiring the signatures provided for in subsection (7)(a) and (7)(b).

School Board President Janell Privett read this statement into the record on Saturday, February 8 at 2:00 p.m. during the teleconference regarding Unorganized Borough Review hosted by the Local Boundary Commission. She also included support of home rule and first class municipalities to form single site boroughs (unified municipalities). In addition, she stated opposition to Model Borough Formation as indicated by the Local Boundary Commission.

Sincerely,



Bruce Harding, Mayor
City of Wrangell



Janell Privett, School Board President
Wrangell Public School Board